

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 OMB-01 RSR-01 /097 W
----- 083175

R 141350Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4925

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BELFAST

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 1073

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, EI

SUBJ: LYNCH DISCOVERS HE KNEW OF BRITISH CONNECTION

1. LATE AUG 13, EX-PM LYNCH MADE STATEMENT ADMITTING THAT HE RECEIVED BRIEFING ON LITTLEJOHN CASE JAN 3. HMG HAD INFORMED GOI THAT BRITISH INTELLIGENCE HAD ACCEPTED AN OFFER FROM ONE OF LITTLEJOHNS TO FURNISH INFO ABOUT IRA. LYNCH WAS BUSY WITH PREPARATIONS FOR TRIP TO US, AND HE FORGOT INFO UNTIL REMINDED BY HUGH MCCANN, FONOFF PERMSEC, WHO HAD GIVEN JAN 3 BRIEFING TO PM.

2. LYNCH'S LAPSE OF MEMORY SEEMS CREDIBLE TO MOST OBSERVERS HERE. LYNCH AND HIS FIANNA FAIL PARTY ARE, HOWEVER, DRAWING HEAVY PRESS CRITICISM FOR FAILING EVEN TO TAKE CAREFUL NOTE OF SENSITIVE INFO. FIANNA FAIL DISCOMFORT IS MAGNIFIED BY FACT THAT IS EX-ATTORNEY GENERAL RECENTLY ACCUSED PRESENT GOI OF "DISREPUTABLE UNTRUTH" FOR MAKING BRIEF, FACTUAL ALLUSION TO JAN 3 BRIEFING. PARTY CLASH HAD BECOME OF OF MOST SERIOUS ASPECTS OF LITTLEJOHN SCANDAL (DUBLIN 1062).

3. "IRISH INDEPENDENT," REPUBLIC'S LARGEST NEWSPAPER, IS STILL CALLING FOR FULL-SCALE INQUIRY. POSSIBLY, HOWEVER, SOME HEAT WILL GO OUT OF CASE WITH DISCLOSURE THAT AT LEAST ONE ISSUE WAS A FAKE.

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4. COMMENT: LYNCH'S PARTY HAS BEEN SERIOUSLY DISCREDITED FOR

PUBLIC BUNGLING. ON OTHER HAND, BRITISH CREDIBILITY HERE SHOULD
HAVE IMPROVED, THOUGH NO LOCAL JOURNALIST HAS YET DRAWN THIS
CONCLUSION. WE WOULD NOT EXPECT IRISH LEADERS TO ACCEPT PUBLICLY
THAT BRITISH COULD CONDUCT THEIR OWN INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS HERE.
ON OTHER HAND, BRITISH ARE NOW SHOWN TO HAVE BEEN OPEN WITH GOI
AND TO HAVE HELD CONSISTENT LINE: THAT LITTLEJOHNS WERE PAID FOR
INTELLIGENCE, NOT CRIMINAL ACTIONS.

MOORE

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NNN

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